



## California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	08-07-00	Interpretation #	00-012
Topic	<b>Hospitals Projections in Corridors High-rise Hospitals Foyers and Waiting Areas</b>		
Code Section(s)	<b>§403.1.1, California Building Code (1998 ed.) §1006.1, California Building Code (1998 ed.) §1007.5.9.1, California Building Code (1998 ed.)</b>		
Requested by	<b>Don Harris OSHDP 1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street #420 Sacramento, CA 92814</b>		
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**1. What is meant by “direct and constant visual supervision” as found in Section 1007.5.9.1 of the 1998 California Building Code?**

This means that the staff should have the ability to observe patients in a direct line of sight from a constantly occupied area (such as a nurses station) directly into the patient sleeping room whether the room is occupied or not. The intent of this section is for staff in special use areas/suites to maintain direct line-of-sight supervision and, therefore, have immediate knowledge of any event such as fire or smoke. This would allow for immediate response and justify the reduction of the corridor hourly fire-rating. Direct and constant visual supervision does not apply to work areas that are not constantly staffed. The use of cameras is not direct visual supervision and does not meet the intent of this section.

**2. Are sconces, exit signs and similar projection of greater than 1-1/2” permitted to project into the required width of hallways and corridors?**

Yes. When these projections are located a minimum of 7 feet above the walking surface, such projections are permitted to project into the required width of hallways and corridors.

**3. Does the exit discharge require a hard all-weather surface?**

Yes. Any exit discharge at grade level leading to a public way must be a hard all-weather surface maintained to the public way. Grade level areas designated as

an exit discharge must be maintained as a continuous, unobstructed and undiminished means of egress to the public way.

4. **If a skilled nursing facility is located within a building of any type of construction more than 75 feet above the lowest floor level having building access, is compliance with the high-rise requirements of the building code required?**

Yes. Section 403.1.1 of the California Building Code specifically exempts hospitals. Skilled-nursing facilities are not considered to be "hospitals" and must meet the high-rise requirements. The definition of "hospital" may be found in Section 1250 of the California Health and Safety Code.

5. **What is the definition of reception room/area and foyer? Do foyer and reception rooms/areas have to be at the entrance to the building?**

A reception room is a room used for receiving clients, guest, or the public as they arrive. The room is not restricted to the entrance of a building. A foyer is the same as lobby. Per Section 213 of the California Building Code, a lobby is an area not defined as a waiting room at the entrance of a building through which persons must pass.

6. **When a corridor is interrupted by a foyer/lobby, is waiting permitted to occur in these areas?**

No. Waiting is not allowed in a foyer or lobby. However, waiting areas are permitted In Group I, Division 1.1 Occupancies provided they meet the provisions of Section 1007.5.4 of the California Building Code.